

BA 1262

8/78

All Saints Episcopal Church with belfry

Reisterstown, Maryland

Public Access

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, designed by Longfellow, Alden and Harlow, architects, Boston, and built in 1890 is one of Maryland's outstanding structures of the Romanesque Revival, a style chiefly developed in the previous decade by Henry Hobson Richardson, also of Boston. This example is in perfect condition with almost no change. Its windows and interior furnishings are outstanding. The separate round Bell Tower is distinctive, as is the Shingle-style Rectory, all contemporary with the church.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

All Saints Episcopal Church with Belfry

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Chatsworth Avenue

6 th

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Baltimore County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Vestry of All Saints Episcopal Church

Telephone #: 833-0700

STREET &amp; NUMBER

c/o Rev. Frederick J. Hanna

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown, Md

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

21136

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County

Liber #: 187/502

Folio #: 33/9

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson, Maryland

STATE

21204

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Standing back from the street in a grove of mature trees ALL SAINTS' CHURCH is a one storey stone Romanesque-revival church, rectangular in shape, four bays in length, with a semi-circular apse at the east end, a north transept; and a gable in the south roof opposite the north transept.\* A north porch and porte-cochère extends from the west end. A fleche rises above the steeply-pitched gabled roof at the crossing. The cornerstone at the south east corner is inscribed:

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH  
NOV. 1, A.D. 1890

Exterior walls are of rock-faced green stone (serpentine?) laid in uncoursed ashlar. A course of rock-faced white marble marks the water table, the windowsill line and the top course of the wall and similar marble surrounds each window and tops each buttress. Roofs are covered with red tile, of the barrel or mission type on the church and fish-scale on the fleche and face of the south gable. The roof of the apse is covered with copper.

Typical windows are tall rectangles, one per bay except that three are grouped under the south gable, separated by a thin, rock-faced coarsed ashlar mullion. Three round-arched windows are in the west end beneath a large round window; a very slim lancet is at the top of the west gable. Seven round-arched windows are spaced around the apse. Three round-arched windows are high in the south gable, the center one being taller than the flanking ones. Above the south gable windows the gable projects slightly, the soffit of the projection taking the shape of a Gothic arch.

A stone chimney rises above the gable of the north transept, slightly projecting from the plane of the wall. A round-arched window is on either side.

The porte-cochère is supported on timber columns and the decorative timber roof is exposed internally. The porch, between it and the nave under the same roof, was open, defined by stone piers; it is now enclosed by glass doors with glass sidelights.

Interior walls are plastered and the arched-braced wood truss roof is exposed. Plaster covers the roof sheathing, making trusses, purlins and common rafters stand out in bold relief. A bold plaster bead surrounds each opening in the wall. A carved wood open screen separates the nave from the north transept, the location of the choir and organ. A broad round arch separates the chancel from the nave. Richly colored glass is in the chancel windows but typical windows elsewhere are leaded clear glass in highly decorative geometrical shapes with only touches of different colors in given small pieces.

The altar and reredos are of carved limestone with onyx engaged columns. Carvings include angels and the Agnus Dei. The baptismal font at the west

\*suggests a south transept.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

---

7 Description continued

---

end is of Mexican onyx. The pews have scrolled arms supported by five small turned balusters. A massive fireplace is in the north transept, its high wooden mantel surround having Romanesque pilasters supporting a frieze with carved roundels and a carved shelf.

Carved marble or onyx tablets flanking the west windows record the donation and dedication of this church with skillfully-executed Sullivanesque Roman lettering.

Northwest of the church is the round BELL TOWER, free-standing above a well; it is four storeys in height with a conical roof. Materials and details are identical to those of the church with two round-arched doors facing south and east in the first storey, the latter sheltered by a hip-roofed hood supported by curved wooden brackets; the doors give access to the ground storey and to the staircase. One narrow rectangular window is in each upper storey and the top storey is open, its timber posts and braces supporting the roof.

(BA-1355)

West of the church is the RECTORY and PARISH HOUSE, a frame structure of the Shingle Style, contemporary with the church, 1½ storey in height. Its stone foundation matches that of the church, its first storey walls are covered with weatherboards, its second storey walls with brown wooden shingles, splayed over a small cornice at the second floor line. The general massing of the house is irregular and picturesque. A small porch with timber columns and arches recalling those of the nearby porte-cochère projects from the south facade of this structure, near the southeast corner; it shelters the principal entrance to the Parish House and it supports a projecting portion of the second storey above. A larger porch, four bays in width, similarly framed, shelters the south facade of the Rectory and it supports the second storey above. Roofs project boldly beyond the walls and in the south gable, above the Rectory porch, the wall is forward, at the edge of the roof, and this projecting portion of the gable has a small double casement recessed within curving shingled jambs. Typical windows throughout are doubled 6/1.

A modern Parish House of green and off-white split concrete block is north of the church.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) local history	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Longfellow, Alden &amp; Harlow, Boston

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As early as 1692 the Maryland General Assembly began a series of legislative acts which eventually made the Anglican Church the official state church. In 1745 a new parish called St. Thomas' was carved out of the St. Paul's Parish north of Old Court Road. This was to be the closest church to Reisterstown for over 100 years.

The people of Reisterstown did not have a place of formal worship until 1854. The Hannah More Academy founded in 1832, had become a meeting place for the faithful, but in 1852 Rev. A.J. Rich, "a man of fine attainments, a doctor of medicine, an educator, and a clergyman of the Protestant Episcopal Church became principal of the academy." Two years later he set aside a new church building on the Academy grounds, St. Michael's, for purposes of public worship. (All Saints' Church, Parish Centennial Booklet, 1971, p.4)

In 1870, the congregation was organized as a parish under the name Reisterstown Parish. In the late 1870's the congregation was no longer meeting at St. Michael's Chapel but were worshipping in the Hall in the center of town. This was of course the Henry Clay Lodge Hall, and was no doubt considered by the residents to be more conveniently located than the Hannah More chapel. (Parish Centennial Booklet, p.9)

In 1884, 10 acres were secured on Bond Avenue from Mr. George Kephart and a chapel was erected along with the All Saints Cemetery. It served the community for 6 years. [ ]

In 1889, when the need for larger quarters was obvious, Mr. William Keyser a wealthy resident of the town wrote to the Vestry:

To the Rector and Vestry of All Saints Chapel  
Gentlemen:

Whilst impressed with the lack of suitable accommodations in the present chapel for comfortably seating those who attend upon the services during the summer months, I received the address of your committee which, among other important suggestions, calls attention to the necessity of providing a more commodious and suitable house of worship.

I now write to say, that if it meets with the approval of the vestry, subject to the conditions, herein stated, I will at my own cost, erect a chapel with a seating capacity for two hundred, so designed that it can, at moderate cost, when found necessary, be enlarged. The growth of Glyndon, situated as it is, immediately upon the railroad, renders it impossible that the increase in population will be mainly there, especially

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

---

8 Significance continued

during the summer months. The construction of the new road between Reisterstown and Glyndon (Chatsworth Ave.) furnishes a location more convenient to both towns and one which in time will become more and more the centre of population.

I have obtained from the owner, the refusal of three lots on the new road, which I am prepared to buy, should my suggestion meet with your approval. These lots embrace a very desirable building site, covered with fine, large trees, and contains about two acres; sufficient land for the church and when occasion requires, a Rectory. Accompanying this you will find a sketch, prepared by Longfellow, a Boston architect, of such a chapel as I would propose to build."

The three lots which were subsequently purchased , were purchased at auction from the Andrew Banks estate (JWS 181/219)

The cornerstone was laid on "All Saints Day" November 1, 1890 and the lovely building was consecrated October 29, 1891.

The building was modeled after an English church at Magnolia, near Manchester by the Sea. It is one of the few churches that does not have the familiar bell tower attached to the church building proper. Instead it stands apart from the church and was purportedly modeled after the bell tower of the private chapel of Duke of Devonshire on his estate "Chatsworth" in England. (Parish Centennial Booklet, p. 15) The stone, a lovely greenish color, was Westminster stone.

Mr. Keyser intended that this All Saints Chapel be a memorial to his mother, Elizabeth Wyman Keyser. An onyx tablet shipped from Boston bears the inscription:

All Saints Chapel  
Erected to the Glory of Almighty God  
and  
in loving remembrance of my mother  
Elizabeth Wyman Keyser  
A.D. 1890

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, designed by Longfellow, Alden and Harlow, architects, Boston, and built in 1890 is one of Maryland's outstanding structures of the Romanesque Revival, a style chiefly developed in the previous decade by Henry Hobson Richardson, also of Boston. This example is in perfect condition with almost no change. Its windows and interior furnishings are outstanding. The separate round Bell Tower is distinctive, as is the Shingle-style Rectory, all contemporary with the church.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

All Saints' Church, Parish Centennial Booklet, (1971 Reisterstown)  
Land Records, Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Md

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. 2 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY James T. Wollon, Jr A.I.A.**

NAME / TITLE Cornelia M Ives, Project Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Historic Reisterstown, Inc

DATE

August, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

430 Main Street

TELEPHONE

833-3078(ms Ives)

CITY OR TOWN

Reisterstown, Md 21136

STATE

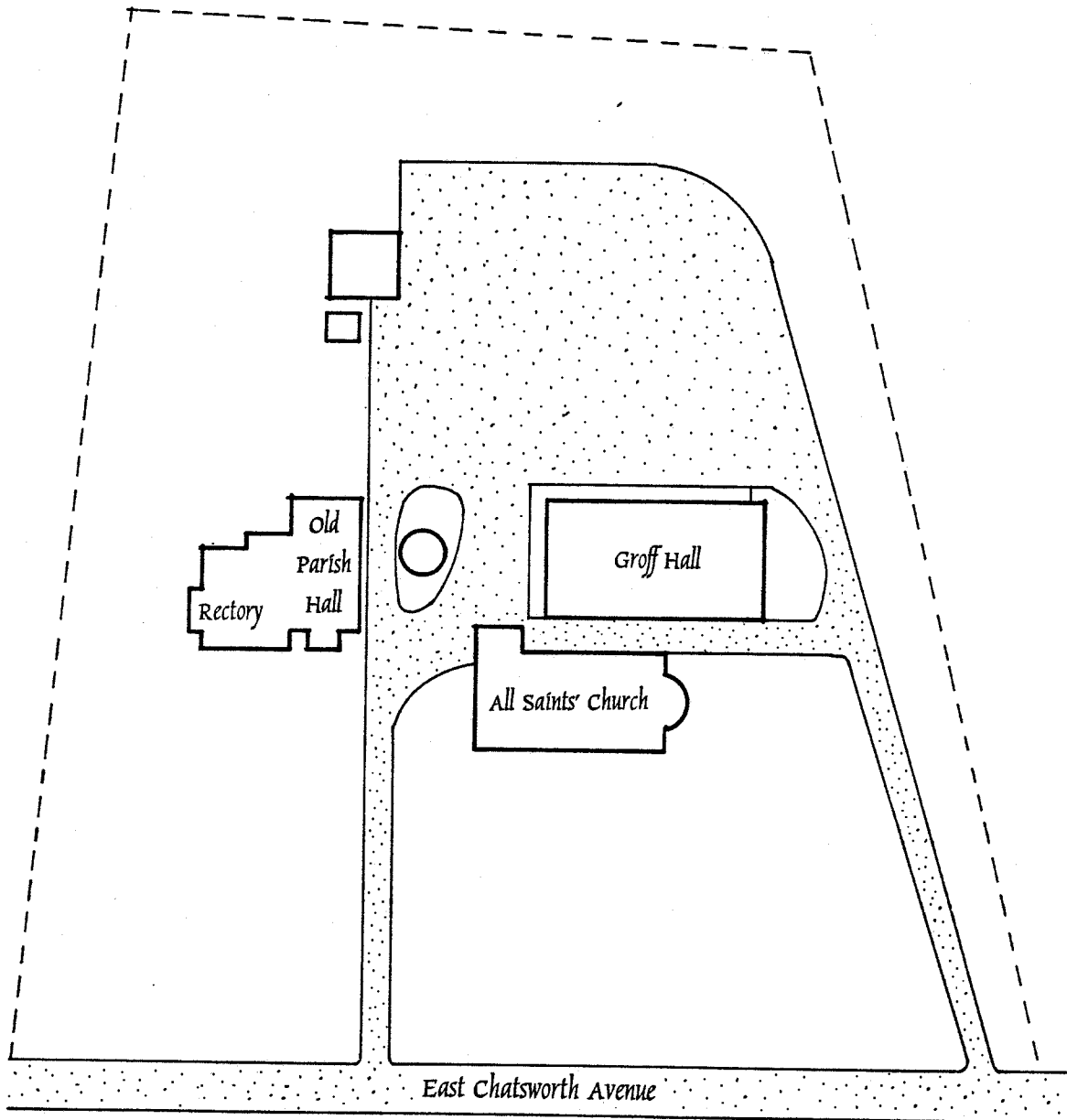
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

BA-1262  
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH  
REISTERSTOWN  
NOT TO SCALE  
6/97 PER

# Site Plan



↑  
NORTH





All Saints' Episcopal  
Church

BA 1262

All Saints Episcopal Church  
Chatsworth Avenue - Rensselaerstown

Carol Pollack

4-77

South



BA 1262

Bell Tower - All Saints Epis. Church

Chatsworth Ave - Reist. Md

Carol Pollack

4.77

South